



## NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2022

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

WOW!! What a comeback!

Staying relevant as an organization, and then coming out of the pandemic, was a real challenge. However, working with an incredible board of directors, who are also really nice people, has been an extremely positive experience.

The backend functionality of Friends of the Vine has been successfully automated and upgraded, which has streamlined both the volume of work required by the members of the board to maintain our previously antiquated reporting systems, while significantly enhancing the user experience for our club members, especially as it relates to event registrations and payments.

Operationally, we have recently held three very successful events, which included the Italian wine paired dinner at Cardinale restaurant, our summer BBQ at the Winston Golf Club, and most recently the Plates and Palates event at the Willow Park Golf Club. Attendance for each of these events was terrific, the food and wine offerings were great, and most telling, I haven't heard a single negative comment from anyone about any of those outings.

Planning for our next event, the Bubbles Brunch at Cassis Bistro, is well underway and we fully expect it will be as equally a successful event.

In the new year, we will be heading back to SAIT and then it will be time to hold our annual general meeting.

To our members, thank you for remaining loyal to FOV. I trust everyone had a very Happy Thanksgiving, and on behalf of your board of directors, please enjoy a safe, festive, and family filled Christmas season.

Sincerely yours,

George Davidson  
President

## Our Next Event

### Bubbles Brunch

**Where:** Cassis Bistro  
105, 2505 17 Ave SW  
**When:** Saturday, November 19, 11:30 am  
**Price:** Members \$129.00  
Non-member's \$139.00  
**Registration:** <https://zone4.ca/register.asp?id=30097>

We are happy to announce that our next event will be the 'Bubbles Brunch' hosted again by Cassis Bistro. It was a very popular event the last time it was hosted there! Chef Dominique will prepare a 3 course French meal inspired by the food of Provence. Always delicious and amazing presentations. The event will be hosted by Laurie MacKay of SoulVines, who has a program on CBC Radio 1, and who has just returned from hosting a wine and beer tasting tour of Eastern Europe. Also hosting will be Christina Masciangelo of Salivate Wines who was a popular Wine Agent at the summer BBQ with Friends of the Vine. They will be choosing the wines and commentating on them throughout the brunch.

#### Extra Special Note

Some amazing news is that Tim Tamashiro, jazz singer and entertainer extraordinaire will be joining us for a short set of songs and will be our auctioneer if any bottles are unopened at the brunch. So, it should be a very fun event! This is a warmup for him before his concert at the Bella Concert Hall December 21, if anyone would like to book tickets for that event here is the link: <https://taylorcentre.ca/All-Events/TimTamashiro.htm>

## OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

**PLATES AND PALATES, OCTOBER 7:** Willow Park Golf & Country Club was a magnificent setting on a beautiful fall evening. Guests enjoyed the eight tapas style food plates; a new plate delivered every 15 minutes. The trick was to find the wines that paired exactly - a difficult challenge for some of the plates.

Fortunately, the five expert wine agents provided directions, but the choice was still difficult as there were 38 wines to choose from. Everyone had their favorites.

Lots of fun and lots of visiting! New friendships were formed and there were lots of discussions about choices. Deep discount prices made ordering one's preferred wines easy. The most popular wine was also the most expensive wine poured - Halem Heights Pinot Noir from the USA, retail priced at \$48.99 but sold at the discounted price of \$34.64. The other whites, roses, bubbles, and reds ranged downward in price to \$9.68. What a selection.

**ANNUAL BBQ, on Sunday, AUGUST 28:** the Friends of the Vine hosted its annual summer barbecue

at the Winston Golf Club. During a beautiful afternoon overlooking the club's scenic golf course, close to 40 members and friends sampled wines from various regions in the Americas, Europe, and Australia/New Zealand from four different vendors. The club, as it did in 2021, provided a beautiful buffet spread including BBQ chicken and steak as well as a host of delicious cold and warm side dishes. Guests were thanked by co-hosts and board members Matt Burns and Tara Glumac as well as board member Doug Crapo who, as usual, thanked the vendors for making themselves available on a summer weekend and for their positive engagement with attendees. The audience so thoroughly enjoyed the outing that over \$10,000.00 in wine sales were recorded. As usual, the Friends of the Vine audience punched above its weight!

**ETHNIC DINNER, JUNE 28:** Our dinner was held at Cardinale Restaurant. It was a wonderful 3 course Italian dinner paired with wines & hosted by Fergus Bone of Galileo Wines.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MAY 10:** our AGM was hosted at Willow Park Wines; a very quick meeting adjourned in record time, then attendees then got down to the serious business of tasting some outstanding wines.

**SAIT DINNER, HIGHWOOD RESTAURANT, APRIL 28:** our annual dinner prepared and served by the Hospitality students at SAIT (under the careful supervision of leading chefs/instructors). A tasting panel had pre-tasted wines (at their own expense) and selected some stunners. As the food and wines were serviced, we were educated about the pours by Michael Bigattini from Willow Park Wines.

**PLATES & PALATES, MARCH 4:** this was the first winter/spring version of this popular event, 40 wines were available to be tasted with each of the 8 food plates, and there was lots of discussion about the preferred wine pairings.

## MEMBERSHIP 2023

Membership is only \$50 a year per couple or \$30 a year for single January 1 - December 31, 2023, and gives you great discounts at select local wine stores.

We have gone digital for online renewal and teamed up with Zone4.ca. The link is now open for purchasing FOV membership as a gift or renewing.

<https://zone4.ca/register.asp?id=30207>

Using Visa or Master Card, memberships can be purchased or renewed and will show up on your credit card as a charge from *Zone4.ca*. Also included in this digital process you will receive your new membership card. You can take a screen shot and save on your phone, or print and save in your wallet.

*When signing up on Zone4, adding your information to the **quick list** option will save your information and make signing up for future events quick and easy.*

*NOTE: With our new payment options, the club is no longer accepting cheques; however, if you select the cheque payment option, you can use e-transfer.*

Any questions regarding membership do not hesitate to contact us at [info@friendsofthevinecalgary.com](mailto:info@friendsofthevinecalgary.com).

Our website [www.friendsofthevinecalgary.com](http://www.friendsofthevinecalgary.com) has membership renewal and event information plus a list of the vendors who offer our members the great discounts.

## Like to Design Social Media Articles?

We need some volunteer help to launch our social media communications. Join our fun team of volunteers to help get our messages out. Put your creative talents to work! Interested? Email [info@friendsofthevinecalgary.com](mailto:info@friendsofthevinecalgary.com) for more details.

## Event Suggestions?

We are putting together the event schedule for 2023. Any suggestions for topics? Venues? Locations? Any other suggestions to improve the club? Feedback on previous venues, event prices, i.e., member versus non-member? Email them to [info@friendsofthevinecalgary.com](mailto:info@friendsofthevinecalgary.com)

## Volunteer Board of Directors

George Davidson	President
Ray Todd	Vice President
Mike Buckley	Treasurer
Margo Frederickson	Secretary
Marion Hurley	Newsletter
Flo Haliburton	Database Management
Doug Crapo	Industry Liaison
Matt Burns	Membership/Marketing
Tara Glumac	Director at Large

Any questions relating to the Friends of the Vine please email us at [info@friendsofthevinecalgary.com](mailto:info@friendsofthevinecalgary.com)

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*"A bottle of wine contains more philosophy  
than all the books in the world."*

*~ Louis Pasteur*

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